



## **FACT SHEET**

## **Community-Focused Court Planning Initiative**

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Community-focused court planning refers to the process of inviting community participation in court planning. This process helps courts better understand public perspectives and develop strong and effective partnerships with community organizations. More information can be found at: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court\\_planning.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court_planning.htm).

### **County Court Planning Teams**

In May 1998, the Judicial Council launched the statewide community-focused court planning initiative by sponsoring a first-ever conference to renew public trust and confidence in the judicial system and strengthen the independence of the judiciary by improving courts' ability to plan for and determine the future direction of local court systems. The conference, *Courts and Their Communities: Local Planning and the Renewal of Public Trust and Confidence*, was attended by county court planning teams from counties throughout California. Teams that comprised judges, court administrators, local county government representatives, local bar representatives, and members of the public were charged with leading the countywide community-focused court strategic planning efforts in their home counties.

### **Court Planning Model**

The county court planning teams were trained in the five-step community-focused court planning model and were charged to return to their counties to institute planning in local courts by opening a dialogue with their communities about public needs and court system improvements and by working directly with the leadership of the courts to institute a comprehensive strategic planning process in the county court system. A community-focused court planning model based on proven court planning experiences was developed with the input of nationally recognized court planning community outreach experts to include the following five steps:

1. Enabling community focus
2. Articulating the courts' vision and mission
3. Identifying emerging trends, stakeholder expectations, and key results areas
4. Developing priority goals and measures of success
5. Designing implementation strategies and monitoring success

### **Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee**

The Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee was appointed by the Chief Justice in August 1998. Co-chaired by Associate Justice Judith McConnell (Court of

Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One) and Judge Veronica McBeth (Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles), the committee was charged with facilitating and overseeing statewide court and community collaboration efforts. The committee also assumed responsibility for carrying out the recommendations of the Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach. Having addressed its various charges in trial court strategic planning and community outreach and education, the task force sunset on December 31, 2002.

### **County Strategic Plans**

All 58 counties have submitted individual community-focused strategic plans to the Judicial Council. These plans, which the courts will review annually, will guide each court's local budgeting, resource allocation, and project prioritization process. In time, they also will inform Judicial Council planning and budgeting.